



## WATER RATES IN BERLIN AND SURROUNDING TOWNS

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### RELATED SPECIAL ACTS

Both the Kensington Fire District and the Worthington Fire District were created through special acts in 1921 (Special Act 286 and Special Act 278). Among other things, the acts authorized the fire districts to supply water for fire protection and domestic use.

Similarly, the Cromwell Fire District was created in 1927 through a special act (Special Act 220) that authorized it to supply water to the town.

A 1929 special act created the MDC (Special Act 511) and established its governance structure. The act also serves as MDC's charter.

### ISSUE

This report describes the types of water systems and current water rates in Berlin and its surrounding towns (Cromwell, Meriden, Middletown, New Britain, Newington, Rocky Hill, and Southington).

### TYPES OF WATER SYSTEMS

Three municipal water systems provide water to Berlin residents: Berlin's Water Control Department, the Kensington Fire District, and the Worthington Fire District. The Kensington Fire District and the Worthington Fire District are special taxing districts. Special taxing districts are a type of local district formed by residents of an area within a town to perform certain services, including providing water services, and levy property taxes to pay for them ([CGS §§ 7-324 to 7-329](#)). Kensington Fire District imposes a mill rate of 1.1, while Worthington Fire District's mill rate is 2.0. For more on special taxing districts, see [OLR Report 2011-R-0347](#).

Cromwell also receives water service through a special taxing district, the Cromwell Fire District, which imposes a mill rate of 2.25. The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), a regional water authority, also provides water service to parts of Cromwell.

MDC is one of the state's three regional water authorities, all of which were created through special acts of the legislature establishing their governance and rate-setting authority. For more on MDC rates and governance, see [OLR Reports 2013-R-0218](#), [2013-R-0313](#), and [2013-R-0466](#). MDC is the only water service provider

serving Rocky Hill, and it also serves a small part of Newington, which mainly receives water service from the city of New Britain.

The other towns in the area (Meriden, Middletown, New Britain, and Southington) rely on their municipal water departments to provide water services.

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) does not regulate the systems described in this report (i.e., municipal or regional water authorities). PURA regulates [investor-owned water utilities](#) (e.g., Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut, the Avon Water Company).

## **WATER RATES**

Table 1 shows volumetric water rates for each water provider from the towns examined in this report. The rates do not generally include sewer charges. Most providers also charge a meter fee based on the meter's size. Meter charges shown in Table 1 are for the typical residential meter size (i.e., 5/8 inches). Rates in Table 1 are per hundred cubic feet unless otherwise indicated.

**Table 1: Water Rates and Fees**

<i><b>Town</b></i>	<i><b>Provider</b></i>	<i><b>Rate</b></i>	<i><b>Meter Charge</b></i>
Berlin	<a href="#">Berlin Water Control Department</a>	\$3.12	\$10 per quarter
	Kensington Fire	\$2.89	No meter charge for meters less than one inch (Customers pay a minimum bill of \$32.45 per quarter that includes sewer service.)
	Worthington Fire	\$3.24	\$10 twice annually
Cromwell	<a href="#">Metropolitan District Commission (MDC)</a>	\$2.53	\$13.48 per month or \$40.44 per quarter
	<a href="#">Cromwell Fire District</a>	<u>Rates Per 1000 gallons</u> First 4,500 gallons: \$8.80 Next 33,000 gallons: \$3.47 Next 112,000 gallons: \$2.84 Over 150,000 gallons: \$2.29	\$39.60 per quarter
Meriden	<a href="#">Meriden Water Division</a>	<u>\$3.95</u>	\$11.57 per quarter
Middletown	<a href="#">Middletown Water and Sewer Department</a>	<u>\$27.98 per 1000 cubic feet</u>	\$19.74 twice annually

Table 1 (continued)

<i><b>Town</b></i>	<i><b>Provider</b></i>	<i><b>Rate</b></i>	<i><b>Meter Charge</b></i>
New Britain	<a href="#">City of New Britain Water Department</a>	\$2.79	\$24 twice annually
Newington	<a href="#">MDC</a>	\$2.53	\$13.48 per month or \$40.44 per quarter
	<a href="#">City of New Britain Water Department</a>	\$2.79	\$40 twice annually
Rocky Hill	<a href="#">MDC</a>	\$2.53	\$13.48 per month or \$40.44 per quarter
Southington	<a href="#">Southington Water</a>	First 100,000 cubic feet: \$2.97  Over 100,000 cubic feet: \$2.76	\$21.50 per quarter

## HYPERLINKS

PURA, *Water Unit*,

[http://www.ct.gov/pura/cwp/view.asp?a=3361&q=415120&puraNav\\_GID=1702](http://www.ct.gov/pura/cwp/view.asp?a=3361&q=415120&puraNav_GID=1702),  
last visited December 15, 2015.

Town of Berlin, *Water Control*,

<http://www.town.berlin.ct.us/departments/?structureid=29>, last visited December 15, 2015.

MDC, *Water Rate Schedule (Effective January 1, 2015)*,

<http://www.themdc.com/assets/uploads/files/billing%20services/2015%20rates.pdf>  
last visited December 15, 2015.

Cromwell Fire District, *Water District*, [http://cromwellfd.org/water\\_district.htm](http://cromwellfd.org/water_district.htm), last visited December 15, 2015.

City of Meriden, *Water Division Information*,

[http://www.cityofmeriden.org/Content/Water\\_Division\\_Information/](http://www.cityofmeriden.org/Content/Water_Division_Information/), last visited December 15, 2015.

Middletown Water and Sewer Department, *Billing Division*,

<http://www.cityofmiddletown.com/content/117/123/185/619.aspx>, last visited December 15, 2015.

City of New Britain, *Water Department*,

<http://www.newbritainct.gov/index.php/city-services/water-department.html>, last visited December 15, 2015.

Southington Water Department, Notice of Rate Schedule,  
[http://www.southington.org/filestorage/17220/17237/17774/17780/Rate\\_Increase\\_Schedule\\_Notice\\_2015.pdf](http://www.southington.org/filestorage/17220/17237/17774/17780/Rate_Increase_Schedule_Notice_2015.pdf), last visited December 15, 2015.

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